

## Article - Criminal Law

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§10–606.

- (a) (1) In this section, “sexual contact with an animal” means any act:
  - (i) involving:
    - 1. a person touching the sex organ or anus of an animal;
    - 2. contact between:
      - A. the sex organ or anus of a person and the mouth, sex organ, or anus of an animal; or
      - B. the sex organ or anus of an animal, and the mouth, sex organ, or anus of a person; or
    - 3. insertion of:
      - A. any part of the body of a person into the opening of the vagina or anus of an animal;
      - B. any part of an animal’s body into the opening of the vagina or anus of a person; or
      - C. any object into the opening of the vagina or anus of an animal; and
  - (ii) committed for the purpose of sexual arousal, sexual gratification, abuse, or financial gain.
- (2) “Sexual contact with an animal” does not include:
  - (i) an accepted veterinary practice;
  - (ii) artificial insemination of an animal for reproductive purposes;
  - (iii) accepted animal husbandry practices, including:

1. grooming;
2. raising;
3. breeding;
4. assisting with the birthing process; or
5. any other activity that provides care for an animal;

or

(iv) generally accepted practices relating to the judging of breed confirmation.

(b) A person may not:

(1) intentionally:

- (i) mutilate an animal;
- (ii) torture an animal;
- (iii) cruelly beat an animal;
- (iv) cruelly kill an animal; or
- (v) engage in sexual contact with an animal;

(2) cause, procure, or authorize an act prohibited under item (1) of this subsection; or

(3) except in the case of self-defense, intentionally inflict bodily harm, permanent disability, or death on an animal owned or used by a law enforcement unit.

(c) (1) A person who violates this section is guilty of the felony of aggravated cruelty to animals and on conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 3 years or a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or both.

(2) As a condition of sentencing, the court may:

- (i) order a defendant convicted of violating this section to:

and

1. participate in and pay for psychological counseling;

2. pay, in addition to any other fines and costs, all reasonable costs incurred in removing, housing, treating, or euthanizing an animal confiscated from the defendant; and

- (ii) prohibit a defendant from owning, possessing, or residing with an animal for a specified period of time.

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